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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/057,532	01/25/2002	Jeffrey A. Lyon	003/240/SAP	2344

7590 05/17/2006

ATTN: MCMR-JA (Ms. Elizabeth Arwine-PATENT ATTY)
U. S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command
504 Scott Street
Fort Detrick, MD 21702-5012

EXAMINER

BASKAR, PADMAVATHI

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1645

DATE MAILED: 05/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/057,532	LYON ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Padmavathi v. Baskar	1645

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 March 2006.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,3,5 and 7-16 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,3,5 and 7-16 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 3/06/06 has been entered.

Amendment/Status of claims

2. Applicant's amendments filed on 2/3/06 is acknowledged and entered.

Claims 1, 3 and 5 have been amended.

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7-16 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S. C. § 112, first paragraph withdrawn

3. In view of amendment to the claims and the arguments of record, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph is withdrawn.

New Rejections based on the amendment***Claim Rejections - 35 USC 112, second paragraph***

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1, 3, and 5 are vague and indefinite because it not clear whether a vaccine composition comprises a C-terminal fragment of SEQ.ID.NO: 7 from *P.falciparum* 3D7 or a vaccine composition comprises the C-terminal 42kD merozoite surface protein as set forth in SEQ.ID.NO: 7 from *P.falciparum* 3D7?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Please note: The examiner has rejected claims 1, 3 and 5 as being vague as discussed in Para # 5 and interpreting claims broadly.

The claims 1, 3 and 5 are drawn to a vaccine comprising a C-terminal 42 KD fragment of merozoite surface protein-I (MSP-14z) from *P. falciparum* 3D7, SEQ ID NO: 7, that is recombinantly expressed in *E. coli* as a soluble protein that retains its native structure and an adjuvant. Claims are also drawn to a method for inducing an immune response to malaria in a subject and a method for inducing a protective immune response to malaria in a mammal using said vaccine and an adjuvant.

Claims 1, 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hui et al 2003, US 6,660,498.

Hui et al disclose a vaccine composition comprising C-terminal merozoite surface protein, MSP-1₄₂ as set forth in SEQ.ID.NO: 8 in an adjuvant (see, column 7, lines 38-65). The disclosed protein is 100% identical to the claimed C-terminal fragment of MSP-1₄₂ from *P.falciparum* 3D7 (see the sequence alignment with the claimed SEQ.ID.NO: 7 and abstract). The disclosed protein retains native structure as shown in example 16. The limitation “recombinant” produced in “*E.coli*” in the claims is viewed as a process

limitation. The recitation of a process limitation "recombinant" is not seen as further limiting the product, as it is presumed the equivalent products can be obtained by multiple routes. Where a product is rejected over a prior art product that appears to be identical, the burden is upon the applicants to provide evidence establishing an unobvious difference between the claimed product and the prior art product. *In re Thorpe*, 227 U.S.P.Q. 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985). *In re Marosi*, 218 U.S.P.Q. 289, 293-293 (C.A.F.C. 1983). *In re Best*, 195 U.S.P.Q. 430, 433 (C.C.P.A. 1977). *In re Brown*, 173 U.S.P.Q. 685, 688 (C.C.P.A. 1972). Thus the prior art anticipated claim 1.

The prior art also discloses a method for inducing an immune response and a method of inducing protective immune response comprising administering said vaccine preparation to an individual in column 3, line 24 through column 4, line 5. Thus the prior art anticipated claims 3 and 5.

Remarks

7. No claims are allowed.

Conclusion

8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PMR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PMR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PMR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Padma Baskar Ph.D., whose telephone number is ((571) 272-0853. A message may be left on the Examiner's voice mail system. The Examiner

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can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 6.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. except First Friday of each bi-week.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynette Smith can be reached on (571) 272-0864. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.



Padma Baskar



LYNETTE R. F. SMITH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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